

Dear GAE,

This letter is in support of SB 184 and HB 5262. As a Connecticut resident, I believe that our state should be doing as much as possible to increase voter turnout and civic/political engagement. Passing these bills would accomplish both.

I have experience working on political campaigns in Connecticut, and I have witnessed the positive impact in voter turnout when absentee ballots are readily available and easily accessible. For example: In 2020 I was working a primary race for State Representative. One of my roles was data, which entails making predictions. Prior to the race, we always try to predict the amount of voters, which gives the campaign an idea of what we need to do to win those votes. We started the campaign prior to covid. Based on past turnouts and expected election enthusiasm, our campaign estimated that about 1600 people would vote. Eventually, covid necessitated that every voter in CT would receive an absentee ballot application. This act drove voter participation through the roof, and about 2900 people ended up voting in the primary race. I could go on...this is but one example that I could give, as there have been numerous elections since then, in which absentee ballots increased turnout.

Absentee ballot access drove voter participation through the roof, and Connecticut should seek to make this the norm, not an exception. Let's be better than other states; let's be the model.

Best,  
Matt Laccavole  
Wethersfield, CT